

service make him the longest serving elected official in the history of South Fulton County, Georgia.

Throughout his time in office, Joe has fought valiantly for those who face social and economic challenges, especially veterans and minorities, and he has strived to bring businesses and prosperity to the communities he represents. I know that he will be greatly missed by his constituents.

I commend Joe for his courageous efforts to break racial barriers throughout his career. He was elected the first African American City Councilman of East Point, and as a Councilman, he helped the city become one of the first in America to celebrate the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday before it became a State or Federal holiday.

Outside of government, Joe is an active member of the Greater Atlanta community, having worked as a real estate salesman, corporate personnel assistant, motivational speaker, school teacher, and teen counselor. He is known for his love of people and his encouraging attitude.

I wish Joe and his wife, Andrea, the very best with their future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO BOB HIGGINS, BALDWIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bob Higgins, senior vice president of the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance. On August 1, 2012, Bob retired from his leadership position, which he has held for the past decade.

Bob Higgins joined the Baldwin Economic Development Alliance in 2002. While serving in the BCEDA, he organized many development projects that have led to the betterment of our community. One of these projects, which was facilitated through the Baldwin Business Incubator, created an aviation training center for local high school students at the Fairhope airport. With the recent announcement of Airbus' decision to locate its new manufacturing facility in Mobile, this effort will be instrumental in preparing a workforce for this new industry.

Bob Higgins' work has not only helped to create future jobs in our area, but has also aided in supporting local companies as they battled the 2010 oil spill. Through his accomplishments, the Coastal Resiliency Coalition and Business Support Center were created to raise support for those who were severely affected by the oil spill, and their efforts continue today.

Though he will be retiring from the BCEDA, Bob Higgins' work with these two groups will not be ending. He now intends to shift his focus and devote more time to worker training to help businesses prepare for the future, while the main focus of the Alliance will be in recruiting industry for the Baldwin County megasite and in support of Airbus.

As many of Bob's former coworkers can attest, Bob's work ethic and drive have been influential in transforming Baldwin County into a better place to live and work. Upon his retire-

ment, Bob is looking forward to having more time for personal activities and spending more time with his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Alabama and my colleagues in the Alabama Delegation, I would like to extend a personal appreciation to Mr. Bob Higgins for his service to Alabama's past, present, and future through his leadership in the Baldwin County Economic Development Alliance.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF FOR THE LOVE OF THE LAKE'S 200TH CONSECUTIVE SECOND SATURDAY SHORELINE SPRUCE UP

#### HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate For the Love of the Lake, a community organization, on its 200th consecutive Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce Up that will be held at White Rock Lake on November 10, 2012.

For the Love of the Lake is committed to the preservation of White Rock Lake Park and sponsors the Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce-Up initiative along with many other noteworthy programs. Since April 1996, volunteers of the Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce-Up have gathered on the second Saturday of each month to pick up trash and scattered debris around the shores of White Rock Lake. They also work closely with the City of Dallas' Parks and Recreation Department to protect the local wildlife. Over the years, this organization has devoted countless hours to this endeavor, ensuring that White Rock Lake is kept clean and beautiful for all to enjoy. I have had the privilege of laboring alongside these dedicated volunteers and know firsthand the hard work it takes to clean up the shoreline.

For the Love of the Lake truly understands the importance of conservation, and continues to protect White Rock Lake Park so it may remain an urban oasis for the City of Dallas. I am thankful for these dedicated volunteers and For the Love of the Lake. Mr. Speaker, I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in congratulating For the Love of the Lake on its 200th consecutive Second Saturday Shoreline Spruce-Up. This remarkable achievement speaks loudly to the organization's continued commitment to maintain the integrity of White Rock Lake Park.

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER CONTEMPT VOTE

#### HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the death of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry is a great loss for our nation. Congress has the responsibility to complete a full investigation into the events related to his death. That is why I supported Mr. DINGELL's motion on June 28, 2012, to ensure a comprehensive, bipartisan and complete investigation into Op-

eration Fast and Furious—including a public hearing, with witnesses previously prevented from testifying by the Majority party on the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Unfortunately, however, House Republicans voted unanimously against this motion, in order to proceed instead with unprecedented, baseless and politically motivated measures to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in civil and criminal contempt. I declined to participate in these partisan political games, and joined with my colleagues in vacating the House Floor in protest of the abuse of power and process demonstrated by the Majority Party's decision to bring H. Res. 711 and H. Res. 706 to the full House of Representatives, before undertaking a serious effort to resolve the disagreement between Congress and the Department of Justice regarding the disclosure of materials related to Operation Fast and Furious. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on roll call votes 441 and 442.

#### CONGRATULATING BARRY HUTCHINSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and honor Barry Hutchinson on his retirement from the Department of Defense after more than 40 years of dedicated and distinguished service to our country and to our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Hutchinson began his career as a stock handler at the Andrews Air Force Base Commissary in Camp Springs, Maryland, in 1972. Throughout his years of service, he developed expertise in a wide variety of areas, including supply management, logistics, program management, and information operations. For the past 34 years, Mr. Hutchinson worked for the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he provided exemplary leadership serving the Information Operations Directorate and retires as the Staff Director for IT Business, Licensing, and Performance Management.

Mr. Hutchinson certainly embodies the commitment and caliber of our federal employees. While he will be missed in the Defense Logistics Agency we will continue to benefit from the expertise and work ethic he has imparted in his coworkers.

Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Hutchinson relied upon the support of his family. He will enjoy his well-deserved retirement with his wife, Joanne, daughters Krista and Kerri, grandchildren, Ashley, Jonathon, and Hannah, and grand dog, Cutter. He will continue serving his community, relying on his degree in Theology while teaching Christianity 101 at his local church. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Barry Hutchinson for 40 years of honorable and valuable service to our nation, thanking him for his many contributions and the sacrifices he and his family have made, and wishing them well in all of their future endeavors.